



NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

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WEATHER & CROPS



Week Ending: October 3, 2010

Number: 30

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WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 3, 2010

Much needed rainfall soaked the state and restored soil moisture. Most of the rain fell steady without heavy downpours. Days suitable for fieldwork were 2.6. In some areas the rains were too late to help summer crops, but soil conditions will be ready for planting small grains and cover crops. Soybean harvest and burley tobacco harvest will resume next week in most counties. Some peanuts were dug but not combined and cotton harvest is in full swing. Some cotton was dropped from bolls due to the heavy rains in some areas. Vegetable harvest slowed considerably. Pastures and hayfields should respond well to the much needed drought relief. Majority of the work was done in the farmstead due to the wet conditions.

| TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT | | | | |
|--------------------------|------------|-------|----------|---------|
| Week Ending | Very Short | Short | Adequate | Surplus |
| September 5, 2010 | 31 | 42 | 27 | 0 |
| September 12, 2010 | 38 | 43 | 19 | 0 |
| September 19, 2010 | 59 | 31 | 10 | 0 |
| September 26, 2010 | 56 | 34 | 10 | 0 |
| October 3, 2010 | 4 | 18 | 55 | 23 |

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| CROP CONDITION PERCENT | | | | | |
|------------------------|-----------|------|------|------|-----------|
| Crop | Very Poor | Poor | Fair | Good | Excellent |
| Pasture | 21 | 32 | 33 | 14 | 0 |
| Livestock | 2 | 10 | 34 | 46 | 8 |
| Hay, Other | 28 | 33 | 27 | 11 | 1 |
| Hay, Alfalfa | 15 | 18 | 40 | 23 | 4 |
| Soybeans | 17 | 30 | 44 | 9 | 0 |
| Peanuts | 38 | 37 | 19 | 6 | 0 |
| Cotton | 20 | 30 | 34 | 16 | 0 |
| Apples, All | 0 | 37 | 43 | 13 | 7 |
| Grapes | 1 | 1 | 19 | 57 | 22 |

| CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS | | | | |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| Crop | This Week | Last Week | Last Year | 5 Year Avg. |
| Corn Mature | 94 | 91 | 93 | 95 |
| Corn Harvested for Grain | 85 | 79 | 43 | 51 |
| Soybeans Dropping Leaves | 76 | 63 | 51 | 56 |
| Soybeans Harvested | 8 | 6 | 3 | 5 |
| Winter Wheat Seeded | 14 | 11 | 11 | 10 |
| Barley Seeded | 24 | 20 | 27 | 34 |
| Flue-cured Tobacco Harvested | 70 | 62 | 82 | 80 |
| Burley Tobacco Harvested | 94 | 86 | 89 | 90 |
| Dark Fire-Cured Tobacco Harvested | 99 | 90 | 100 | 100 |
| Peanuts Dug | 18 | 11 | 18 | 24 |
| Peanuts Combined | 6 | 4 | 8 | 15 |
| Cotton Bolls Opening | 84 | 71 | 77 | 92 |
| Cotton Harvested | 20 | 12 | 6 | 11 |
| Fall Apples Harvested | 60 | 45 | 64 | 72 |
| Winter Apples Harvested | 60 | 35 | 35 | 28 |
| Oats for Grain Seeded | 30 | 25 | 24 | 10 |

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 3, 2010

| City | Temperature | | | | | | Growing degree days (modified base 50) | | Precipitation | | | | |
|-------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|----------|------|-------------------------|--|------------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------------------|----------------|---------------------------|
| | Avg. max. | Avg. min. | High max. | Low min. | Avg. | Avg. dep. from normal * | Mar. 1 to Oct 2 | Mar. 1 to Oct 2 Normal | Last Week | Since Sept 1 | Sept 1 dep. from normal * | Jan. 1 to date | Jan. 1 dep. from normal * |
| Lynchburg | 71 | 54 | 74 | 44 | 62 | -1 | 3975 | 3556 | 6.24 | 6.83 | 2.70 | 39.10 | 5.40 |
| Norfolk | 76 | 68 | 82 | 62 | 72 | 4 | 4642 | 3965 | 11.76 | 12.24 | 7.95 | 45.07 | 8.43 |
| Richmond | 76 | 61 | 83 | 50 | 69 | 3 | 4556 | 3851 | 6.27 | 6.50 | 2.26 | 29.23 | -5.15 |
| Roanoke | 69 | 54 | 75 | 45 | 61 | -3 | 4183 | NA | 6.10 | 7.41 | 3.34 | 36.76 | 3.35 |
| Wash/Dulles | 74 | 57 | 81 | 45 | 65 | 2 | 4105 | NA | 5.62 | 6.18 | 2.15 | 32.69 | 0.33 |

* Normal based on 1971-2000 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>. Source: USDA, NASS, Virginia Field Office.

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY

Comments are based on comments reported by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

NORTHERN

CULPEPER (Carl Stafford)

Wide spread soaking rains this week slow down an early grain harvest temporarily and put grass back into gear to make its last growth for the season. Hay is in short supply.

WESTERN

AUGUSTA (Tom Stanley)

Major rainfall events to start the week and at mid-week dramatically improved soil moisture conditions. Most farm activities were confined to the farmstead this week due to wet conditions.

ROCKBRIDGE (Tom Stanley)

Significant rainfall Sunday and again on Wednesday brought a welcome relief to drought conditions this week. Some limited field activities took place on Saturday but most field work was suspended this week due to wet conditions.

CENTRAL

AMELIA (Joan D. Poore)

Finally some much needed rain! The entire county received rain, varying in amounts; most of the rain fell steady without heavy downpours. The ground needed this good soaking. This should be beneficial to pastures and hay and preparations for fall seeding.

APPOMATTOX (Bruce Jones)

Last week provided much needed rainfall. Although we received around 6 inches of rainfall, dry soils and windy conditions have settled the soil rapidly. Soybean harvest will resume and the remaining burley tobacco will be harvested this week.

CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)

Soil moisture conditions have improved greatly with the recent rains. Pastures and hay fields are looking much better. Late planted double crop soybeans have improved somewhat, but it may have been too late to significantly increase pod fill. Small grain and cover crop plantings will resume after being halted by a lack of soil moisture.

CENTRAL (*continued*)

CHESTERFIELD (Joan D Poore)

Finally some much needed rain fell over the entire county not just those spotty showers. The pastures and hay land may have time for a little growth before frost, maybe. An improvement for preparations to seed fall seeded crops.

EASTERN

ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

Rains during much of the week restored soil moisture. While the rains were too late to help summer crops, soil conditions should be good for planting small grains and cover crops if a prolonged wet trend does not set up. Rains should help pastures and hay fields. Hopefully, producers will still have time to make much needed renovations. A few farmers started planting barley early in the week.

MIDDLESEX (David Moore)

About 12 inches of rain fell last week in the area. This is good news for those planning on planting small grains. The rain fell a little late for most soybeans but may add some extra weight to some fields. After this wet spell, I expect barley seeding to begin and soybean harvest to continue. Yields on beans have been average to slightly below so far. I would expect most yields to get slightly better as harvest goes on depending on soil type. Double crop soybeans on sandy soils have suffered considerably in the past several weeks. The rain was a welcome relief to the area and will be a great asset to fall planting.

SOUTHWESTERN

SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)

Cooler temperatures and spotty showers are becoming the normal. Tobacco harvest is almost complete, with most hoping frost will hold off another week or two. Pastures have rebounded well, and look lusher than most spring pastures. We held meetings in Lee and Scott County on managing weeds to improve pastures. Vegetable harvests slowing considerably.

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

Comments are based on comments reported by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

SOUTHEASTERN

PRINCE GEORGE (Scott Reiter)

What a big difference in moisture levels this week! This area received 8-10 inches of rain during the week. The first inch was welcomed but the rest was unwanted. This will set peanut, cotton, and soybean harvest back severely. Some peanuts were dug but not combined which may cause yield loss as the vines become weak. Cotton has been dropped from bolls with the heavy rains. Early harvested cotton, peanut, and soybean yields are well below average. Other activities for the week were machine repairs and crop insurance purchases before the September 30 deadline.

SOUTHAMPTON (John Rudy)

Rains this past week have helped with the soil moistures but are too late to influence 2010 crops. There has been some flooding from the rains. Peanuts are being dug and cotton harvest is in full swing. Pastures should begin to improve with recent rain. Rains should help with fall seeded crops.

SURRY (Glenn Slade)

From 6-8 inches of rain over the last week has been a drought buster. All field work stopped as soils begin to dry out.

SOUTHEASTERN (continued)

SUSSEX (Kelvin Wells, Sussex ANR Agent)

We are grateful for the rains that came to our area. Most areas received over 6 inches and most of it soaked in. Peanut digging will start now that some rain has come to soften up the ground. Small grains and cover-crops can be planted soon.

CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence)

We have had 15.6 inches of rain this week. Ground water has been recharged completely now following a very dry September. Rain was about two-weeks too late to help our soybean crop, although a few late season soybeans may benefit. Soybean harvest will begin once fields dry out. Rains have delayed strawberry planting until next week.



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